

4 MAY 1950

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CONFIDENTIAL

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EUROPE

1. CZECHOSLOVAKIA: Relations with US reviewed--US Ambassador Briggs in Prague expresses the opinion that the size of the US Embassy staff and its functions in the immediate future must be viewed in the light of what appears to be the recent basic change in the Czechoslovak attitude toward the US, which Briggs attributes to direct Soviet interference on a scale not previously evident. Briggs comments that regardless of the reason for the new Czechoslovak hostility, it must be accepted as a fact. In this situation, the Ambassador suggests that the US: (a) avoid becoming involved in a public altercation with the Czechoslovak Government; (b) immediately close the Czechoslovak consulates in Pittsburgh and Cleveland; and (c) proceed promptly to effect fairly large Embassy personnel reductions.

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2. THE PHILIPPINES: Reported Cabinet reshuffle--US Ambassador Cowen in Manila reports that he has received confirmation from a "reliable official" Philippine source that President Quirino is preparing a Cabinet reshuffle.

(CIA Comment: CIA believes that any attempts by Quirino to reshuffle his Cabinet are not likely to strengthen his rapidly weakening political position, in view of the present widespread loss of confidence in Quirino's leadership even among leaders of his own Liberal Party, including Vice President Lopez.)

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NO CHANGE in Class.

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